

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4446

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-80

TAGS: PFOR NATO

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS IN NATO ON POSSIBLE ADJUSTMENTS IN US  
TACTICAL NUCLEAR FORCES IN EUROPE

REF:A. STATE 87667; B. USNATO 4319

SUMMARY: IN REFERENCE TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGERS COMMENTS TO NEWSMEN ON AUGUST 13 CONCERNING POSSIBLE "MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS" IN US TACTICAL NUCLEAR FORCES IN EUROPE, MISSION RECALLS PAST ASSURANCES TO CONSULT WITH OUR ALLIES ON NUCLEAR STOCKPILE LEVELS IN EUROPE. IN THE MEANTIME, UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, MISSION INTENDS TO SAY IN RESPONSE TO ANY QUESTIONS FROM ALLIES THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAS REFERRED TO THIS SUBJECT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN THE PAST, THAT WE HAVE MADE CLEAR OUR INTENTION TO CONSULT WITH THE ALLIES AND THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING RESULTS OF OUR STUDIES WITH THE ALLIES AS THEY ARE DEVELOPED.  
END SUMMARY.

1. USIS WIRELESS FILE NO. 156, DATED AUGUST 14, 1974, REPORTS SECRETARY SCHLESINGERS COMMENTS TO NEWSMEN ON AUGUST 13 THAT HE  
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BELIEVED THAT "MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS" WERE POSSIBLE IN US TACTICAL NUCLEAR FORCES IN EUROPE AND THAT AN INTENSIVE STUDY WAS UNDERWAY CURRENTLY WITH REGARD TO THAT SITUATION. MISSION RECALLS PAST ASSURANCES THAT US COULD CONSULT WITH OUR ALLIES CONCERNING ANY CHANGES IN NUCLEAR STOCKPILE LEVELS IN EUROPE (E.G., REF A).

WE URGE WASHINGTON TO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO NECESSARY PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS CONCERNING ANY SIGNIFICANT ADJUSTMENTS IN OUR TACTICAL NUCLEAR FORCES, AND , IN PARTICULAR, TO CONSULT WITH ALLIES BEFORE ANY RESULTS OR DECISIONS STEMMING FROM ON GOING STUDIES ARE MADE PUBLIC. ALLIED CONCERNS IN THIS AREA WILL REMAIN HIGH BECAUSE OF THEIR PERENNIAL SENSITIVIETY ABOUT NUCLEAR ISSUES, COUPLED WITH THE RELATIONSHIP OF POSSIBLE ADJUSTMENTS IN US TACTICAL NUCLEAR FORCES TO SALT AND MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY HERE TO PROVIDE A CONSPICUOUS DEMONSTRATION OF OUR GOOD FAITH IN CONSULTATIONS ON A SUBJEC TO WHICH THE ALLIES ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE. A VARIETY OF CONSULTATIVE CHANNELS MAY BE USEFUL FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND THE NPG APPARATUS IN PARTICULAR WOULD APPEAR TO BE ESPECIALLY WELL SUITED.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION,IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE CONSULTATIONS WHICH MISSION RECOMMENDS IN REF B RELATING TO THE REQUIREMENT UNDER THE 1975 MILITARY PROVUREMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO REPORT TO CONGRESS BY APRIL 1, 1975 ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR FORCES IN EUROPE, COULD RELATE TO OR BE A PART OF CONSULTATIONS ON POSSIBLE ADJUSTMENTS IN US TACTICAL NUCLEAR FORCES REFERRED TO BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER ON AUGUST 13.

3. IN THE MEANTIME, UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, MISSION INTENDS TO SAY IN RESPONSE TO ANY QUESTIONS FROM ALLIES ON SECRETARY SCHLESINGERS COMMENTS ON AUGUST 13 TAHT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAS REFERRED TO POSSIBLE CHANGES IN OUR TACTICAL NUCLEAR POSTURE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN THE PAST, THAT WE HAVE MADE CLEAR OUR INTENTION TO CONSULT WITH THE ALLIES ON THIS SUBJECT, AND THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING THE RESULTS OF OUR STUDIES WITH THE ALLIES AS THEY ARE DEVELOPED. MCAULIFFE

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